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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE JAN 02 2004

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Applicants : Cohn, et al.
Filed : March 13, 2001
Serial No. : 09/804,745
For : Novel Polymeric Compositions
Group Art Unit : 1617
Examiner : E. Webman

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

Election of Invention in Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Examiner's further restriction requirement of November 25, 2003 in the above-referenced patent application, Applicant provisionally elects with traverse to further prosecute an invention wherein B is a poly(oxyalkylene) polymer terminated with a non-reactive alkyl group and, preferably a methyl group, and the composition optionally includes a bioactive agent. Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 15-21 are readable on the elected invention. These claims are primarily directed to polymeric composition species comprised of AB diblocks or multiblocks, which are end-capped with an alkyl group (preferably a methyl group) and which are crosslinked, optionally containing a bioactive agent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the presently elected invention meets the Examiner's concerns regarding efficient examination and avoiding an undue burden.

Applicants respectfully submit that the newly defined invention is sufficiently narrow to allow the Examiner to determine patentability without being subjected to the serious burden referred to in M.P.E.P. §803. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner examine all of the claims set forth above, namely claims 1-3, 6-8 and 15-21, with respect to the elected invention. No fee is due for the presentation of this paper. If any fee is due, please charge deposit account 04-0838.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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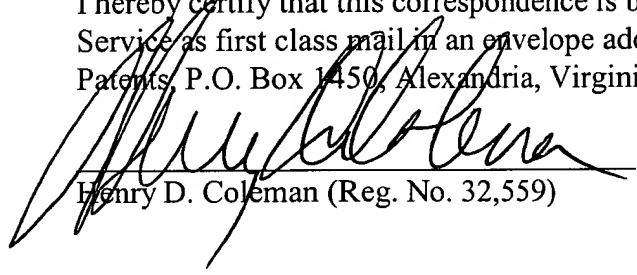
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Dated: December 26, 2003

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 26, 2003.


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